NUMB. CCLXX.

The SPECTATOR.

Differt enim citius meminitque libentius illud
Quod quis deridet quod probat — Hor.

Wednesday, January 9. 1712.

know that I have been in greater Det- this many Years, than in beholding at the Play the last Time the Lady was acted. So great an Assem- placed in gradual Rows in all the of Jewels, Silks, and Colours, gave and gay an Impression to the Heart, ought the Season of the Year was va- did not think it an ill Expres- young Fellow who stood near me, the Boxes those Bed of Tulips. It was sion of the prospect, when any one the Ladies rose up and did honour to her Friend at a distance, by curtsying; and unity to that Friend to shew her charms Advantage in returning the Salutation. Action is as proper and graceful, as it is unbecoming and Impertinent. By the must take the liberty to observe, that I see any one who is usually so full of Ci- Church, offer at any such Indecorum part of the Action of the Play. Such Prospects gladden our Minds, and when in general, give innocent and pleasing He that dwells upon any one Object of may fix his Imagination to his Disquiet; but mplation of a whole Assembly together, ence against the Encroachment of Desire: to me, who have taken pains to look at bstracted from the Consideration of its be- Object of Desire, at Power only as it sits ther without any hopes of partaking any it, at Wisdom and Capacity without any to rival or envy its Acquisitions: I say ain ally free from forming any hopes ing the Persons of beautiful Women, ng my self into Ambition from the Suc- other Men, this World is not only a meer a very pleasant one. Did Mankind but reedom which there is in keeping thus a the World, I should have more Imita- the powerfullest Man in the Nation ers. To be no Man's Rival in Love, or in Business, is a Character which not recommend you as it ought to be- among those whom you live with, yet ly this Effect, that you do not stand need of their Approbation, as you aimed at it more, in letting your the same things which the Generality by this means, and with this easy Phi- am never less at a Play than when I heatre; but indeed I am seldom so well the Action as in that place, for most Nature no longer than while they are Night-Gowns, and all the busy part of in Characters which they neither be- in with pleasure to themselves or their Beholders. But to return to my Ladies. I was very well pleased to see so great a Crowd of them assembled at a Play, wherein the Heroine, as the Phrase is, is so just a Picture of the Vanity of the Sex in tormenting their Admirers. The Lady who pines for the Man whom she treats with so much Impertinence and Inconstancy, is drawn with much Art and Humour. Her Resolutions to be extremely civil, but her Vanity arising just at the instance that she resolved to express her self kindly, are described as by one who had studied the Sex. But when my Admiration is fixed upon this excellent Character, and two or three others in the Play, I must confess I was moved with the utmost Indignation at the trivial, senseless, and unnatural Representation of the Chaplain. It is possible there may be a Pedant in Holy Orders, and we have seen one or two of them in the World; but such a driveler as Sir *Roger*, so bereft of all manner of Pride, which is the Characteristick of a Pedant, is what one would not believe could come into the Head of the same Man who drew the rest of the Play. The meeting between *Wilford* and him shews a Wretch without any Notion of the Dignity of his Function; and it is out of all common sense, that he should give an Account of Him- self *as one seen four or five Miles in a Morning on Foot for Exercise*. It is not to be denied, but his part and that of the Maid whom he makes Love to, are excellently well performed; but a thing which is blameable in it self, grows still more so by the success in the Execution of it. It is to mean a thing to gratify a loose Age with a scandalous Representation of what is reputable among Men, not to say what is sacred, that no Beauty, no Excellence in an Author ought to attone for it; nay such Excellence is an aggravation of his Guilt, and an Argument that he errs against the Conviction of his own Understanding and Conscience. Wit should be tried by this Rule, and an Audience should rise against such a Scene, as throws down the Reputation of any thing which the Consideration of Religion or Decency should preserve from Contempt. But all this Evil arises from this one Corruption of Mind, that makes Men resent Offences against their Virtue, less than those against their Understandings. An Author shall write as if he thought there was not one Man of Honour or Woman of Chastity in the House, and come off with Applause: For an Insult upon all the Ten Commandments, with the little Cricks, is not so bad as the Breach of an Unity of Time or Place. Half Wits do not apprehend the Miseries that must necessarily flow from Degeneracy of Manners; nor do they know that Order is the Support of Society. Sir *Roger* and his Mistress are Monsters of the Poets own forming; the Sentiments in both of them are such as do not arise in Fools of their Educa-

tion

ducation. We all know that a silly Scholar, instead of being below every one he meets with, is apt to be exalted above the Rank of such as are really his Superiors: His Arrogance is always founded upon particular Notions of Distinction in his own Head, accompanied with a Pedantick Scorn of all Fortune and Preheminence when compared with his Knowledge and Learning. This very one Character of Sir *Roger*, as silly as it really is, has done more towards the Disparagement of Holy Orders, and consequently of Virtue it self, than all the Wit that Author or any other could make up for in the Conduct of the longest Life after it. I do not pretend, in saying this, to give my self Airs of more Virtue than my Neighbours, but assert it from the Principles by which Mankind must always be governed. Sallies of Imagination are to be over-looked, when they are committed out of Warmth in the Recommendation of what is Praiseworthy; but a deliberate advancing of Vice with all the Wit in the World, is as ill an Action as any that comes before the Magistrate, and ought to be received as such by the People.

The First and Second Volumes of the SPECTATOR *in* 8vo. *are now ready to be delivered to the Subscribers, by* J. Tonson *at* Shakespear's *Head over-against* Catherine-street *in the* Strand.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thursday the 10th of January, will be reviv'd, a Play call'd, The Tempest: or, the Enchanted Island. As it was altered from Shakespear by Sir Wil. D'avenant, and the late Mr. Dryden, Poets Laureat. With new Scenes, Machines, and all the Original Decorations proper to the Play. By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this present Wednesday being the 9th of January, will be performed the last new Opera call'd, Antiochus. No Person to be admitted without Tickets, which will be delivered out this Day at the Theatre, at half a Guinea each Ticket. The first Gallery 5 s. the upper Gallery 2 s. To begin Exactly at Six.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head, over against Katherine-street in the Strand.

Lost on Monday the 7th Instant, a Pocket-Book, in which were 3 Bills on Mr. Jackson and Cobrook, payable to Mr. Josias Nicholson and Company dated the 5th Instant for 60 l. one the 7th Instant for 100 l. and another the same Day for 14 l. 7 s. 6 d. with several other Notes. If offered in Payment, Discompt, or otherwise, stop them, and give Notice to Mr. Jackson above-mentioned, behind the Exchange, and you shall have a Guinea Reward for the Book and Notes, no Payment being stopt.

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Will be expos'd to Sale this present Wednesday the 9th and to Morrow being Thursday the 10th of this Instant January, the Owner designing to leave off House-keeping, and soon after will dispose of by Auction some China, Jewels, and other Curiosities. The above-named Collection may be seen at Mr. Pelliser's House, the upper End of Henrietta-street next Covent-Garden, and next Door to the Wheat-sheaf; where Catalogues may be had. Note, The Sale begins at 10 in the Forenoon this present Wednesday.

The Effigies of the late Lord Chief Justice Hales, with his Sym of Religion and Character Engraven on a Copper-Plate. Formerly sold for 1 s. now for 6 d. Likewise the 7 Cartons of Raphael Urbin, with the Title Cut done in Mezzotinto from the Gallery of Hampton Court. Formerly sold for 20 s. now for 15 s. by Edw. Cooper at the 3 Pidgeons in Bedford-Street.

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